

Series: Power From On High
Title: Anchored in the Storm, Part 2
Lesson: 143

Text: Acts 27:21-44
Date: November 1, 2026

Five ways God's providence strengthens our faithfulness:

1. He sustains us through trials.

2. He exposes the illusion of human control.

3. He gives _____ when circumstances seem impossible.

21 When they had gone a long time without food, then Paul stood up in their midst and said, "Men, you ought to have followed my advice and not to have set sail from Crete and incurred this damage and loss.

Paul shows his leadership by stepping forward in a crisis.

1. He spoke with complete honestly.

2. He offered godly encouragement.

22 "Yet now I urge you to keep up your courage, for there will be no loss of life among you, but only of the ship.

23 "For this very night an angel of the God to whom I belong and whom I serve stood before me,

A. He calms our fears with His _____.

Hebrews 1:14 Are they not all ministering spirits, sent out to **render service** for the sake of those who will inherit salvation?

24 saying, 'Do not be afraid, Paul; you must stand before Caesar; and behold, God has granted you all those who are sailing with you.'

"Don't be afraid"

Faith does not mean we never experience fear; it means we have reason to _____God's word when we do.

"you MUST stand before Caesar"

B. He reassures us by answering our _____.

"granted"

A principle where individuals, families, or communities may experience God's favor because of their proximity to a righteous believer.

1. Potiphar's household benefited because of Joseph.

Genesis 39:5 It came about that from the time he made him overseer in his house and over all that he owned, the Lord blessed the Egyptian's house ***on account of Joseph***; thus the Lord's blessing was upon all that he owned, in the house and in the field.

2. Unbelieving families benefit because of a believing family member.

1 Corinthians 7:14 For the unbelieving husband is sanctified through his wife, and the unbelieving wife is sanctified through

her believing husband; for otherwise your children are unclean, but now they are holy.

3. God was willing to avoid judgment on a wicked city for the sake of the righteous (Gen. 18:22–33).

25 "Therefore, keep up your courage, men, for I believe God that it will turn out exactly as I have been told.

"I believe God"

26 "But we must run aground on a certain island."

"must"

"certain" island

4. He provides through responsible _____.

29 Fearing that we might run aground somewhere on the rocks, they cast four anchors from the stern and wished for daybreak.

A. He requires immediate, _____ action.

30 But as the sailors were trying to escape from the ship and had let down the ship's boat into the sea, on the pretense of intending to lay out anchors from the bow, 31 Paul said to the centurion and to the soldiers, "Unless these men remain in the ship, you yourselves cannot be saved."

Trusting God never cancels out common sense, preparation, or taking wise precautions.

32 Then the soldiers cut away the ropes of the ship's boat and let it fall away.

B. He calls us to address practical _____.

33 Until the day was about to dawn, Paul was encouraging them all to take some food, saying, "Today is the fourteenth day that you have been constantly watching and going without eating, having taken nothing. 34 "Therefore I encourage you to take some food, for this is for your preservation, for not a hair from the head of any of you will perish."

C. He strengthens us through the _____

of others.

35 Having said this, he took bread and gave thanks to God in the presence of all, and he broke it and began to eat.

"Having said this"

36 All of them were encouraged and they themselves also took food.

37 All of us in the ship were two hundred and seventy-six persons.

"All" "All"

38 When they had eaten enough, they began to lighten the ship by throwing out the wheat into the sea.

5. He _____ His promises.

39 When day came, they could not recognize the land; but they did observe a bay with a beach, and they resolved to drive the ship onto it if they could.

40 And casting off the anchors, they left them in the sea while at the same time they were loosening the ropes of the rudders; and hoisting the foresail to the wind, they were heading for the beach.

41 But striking a reef where two seas met, they ran the vessel aground; and the prow stuck fast and remained immovable, but the stern began to be broken up by the force of the waves.

42 The soldiers' plan was to kill the prisoners, so that none of them would swim away and escape; 43 but the centurion, wanting to bring Paul safely through, kept them from their intention, and commanded that those who could swim should jump overboard first and get to land, 44 and the rest should follow, some on planks, and others on various things from the ship. And so it happened that they all were brought safely to land.

Implication

God's word _____, even when everything else falls apart.

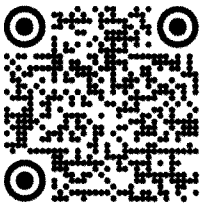
Discussion Guide

1. Why is it comforting to know that even mature believers like Paul experience fear during severe trials?

2. How do we sometimes fall into the trap of spiritual passivity ("let go and let God") during a crisis, and what does it look like to practically pair our faith with wise, responsible action?

3. In what ways has God used your steady, faithful presence to bring grace, peace, or protection to the unbelieving family members, coworkers, or friends around you?

4. Why do we often struggle when God answers our prayers in ways we didn't expect?



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